Vol. 3 Issue 9 September 1996

ABOVE GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

New Columns!
Pages 4 & 24

Come OUT and PLAY !

TINSEL GARLAND
With her
Special Guests
Wed, Sept. 4 & 18
12 Midnight

MAXI CARTER
And the Girls
Behind the Wall
Wed, September 11
12 Midnight

MICHAEL FERRERI
On Piano
In the Lounge
Sat, Sept. 14 & 28
10pm-2am

Let's Play BINGO
For FACT's Family
Support Services
Thur, Sept. 19
8pm - 11pm

ELAINE PAXSON
with
Christian Daizey
Fri, Sept. 20
10pm - 2am

BRIAN MURPHY
Female
Illusionist
Sun, Sept. 22
11pm • No Cover

CLUB KIDZ
Party at
All Age Night
Special Giveaways!
Mon, Sept. 23
10pm - 2am

Dueling Divas
Hosted by Tinsel Garland
A benefit for the
AIDS Quilt Display
Wed, Sept. 25
11pm - $2 Donation

TRAP DOOR
Live in the Disco
2 Shows
10pm & 12am
NO COVER
Thur, Sept. 26

Come Out
and experience our
HOT NEW LIGHTING EFFECTS

STONEWALL

28 N. 10th Street Allentown, PA 18101 610-432-0215

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Allentown, PA 18105-1656

On The Cover

A newly discovered photo of a previous Summer Games from the Collection of the Late Ken Tull. Pictured are Carl Mancino and Ken carrying the torch together to officially open that year's event.

Sources at FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together), sponsor of the Annual Summer Games, revealed that this year's event will be dedicated to the memory of Ken Tull (also pictured below) who passed in October of 1995.

We at AboveGround hope you will all help continue his dream and join us at the 11th Annual Summer Games on Sunday, September 8, 1995 at Rainbow Mountain Resort in the Poconos. For Further details, please see the press release on page 6 and the Ad on the back cover.

Only together can we realize an end to the suffering HIV/AIDS inflicts.

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The businesses who advertise in AboveGround magazine make it possible to bring it to you each month. Just as they support our community and this publication, we urge you to support their businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad here, in AboveGround magazine.

A Look Back

1&2: Corrine Michaels and Miss Fabu entertain the crowd at Stonewall along with a bevy of beauties in Va Va Voom.

3.The Diva of Drag Search at the Cart-wheel, Monica Rey, has the crowd begging for more in-between contestants.

4.Glenn *a.k.a.* Eva the Deva, and Alex, *a.k.a.* Maxi Carter are found at the Wall sans-drag.

5. Bartender Joe is joined outside by some of the Happy Hour crowd at Candida in Allentown

DYKES WITH TYKES

by Michelle Zimmer

If anyone had told me five years ago that I would some day be living with a woman, stepmother to her two kids, writing for the local gay and lesbian paper and returning to college to prepare for a career, I'd have said they were out to lunch.

Why would I choose to take my son and leave my redneck, beer guzzling, channel surfing lump of a husband? How could I pass up a future of endless evenings with a man whose idea of communicating was to grunt monosyllabic noises at me while staring blankly at sitcom reruns?

I could never have imagined myself seeking out anything more fulfilling than a clerical day job and nights doing laundry, paying bills and trying to figure out how to make ground beef, the only meat my husband would eat, exciting yet another night.

But it happened. I found and fell in love with my soul mate and life partner, Kay, while working at a mindless data entry job. And no one was more surprised than I. Here I was this timid, plain, boring person, caught off guard by urgent feelings of desire for the woman sitting in the cubicle next to me at work! For months I tried every excuse I could think of to explain these feelings away.

At home over my dinner of Hamburger Noodle Bake, as Jeff droned on about the evils of the Democratic Party and the latest gossip from the F.O.E., I found myself day dreaming about how it would feel to hold her hand or to kiss her lips. The more expansive and daring these fantasies became the less I was buying my own reassurances to myself that "everyone has a few latent homosexual feelings. It means nothing."

Eventually, I had to admit it to myself. I was in love. Not only was I married and in love with someone else but I was madly, passionately in love with a woman! So much for living a ho-hum, boring life. In that one realization I jumped on a run away train to adventure and there was no getting off. I was about to enter a whole new wonderful world I knew nothing of. My mind would be opened to new ideas and experiences. But for now I was faced with the problem that I was a married woman in love with a married woman!

The more Kay and I got to know each other, the more I sensed she may be having the same feelings for me. We took all our breaks and lunches together and I made up excuses to stop by her cubicle to discuss work. She was doing the same. Everyday I vowed to myself that I was going to tell her, and everyday I chickened out. I imagined romantic scenes in which I would profess my love for her and she would concur and then we would fall into each others arms. The scene would fade to black with us in a passionate lip lock. Then I would give myself a reality check and

replay the scene, only this time her reaction would be one of horror. This way I figured I'd be ready for anything.

Apparently tired of waiting for me, it was Kay who finally told me in the car at lunch one day. "I love you Michelle," she stated simply. "I love you, too Kay," I said trying to sound casual while pretending to busy myself with my Big Mac, just in case I had misunderstood her meaning. "No, I mean I am in love with you," she explained. My heart was pounding and my hands were sweating. Was there anyway I could be misunderstanding her now? No, that seemed unlikely. "Oh my God, she loves me too! I never thought this could happen." Looking over at her I saw a look of panic in her face and realized that she was mistaking my hesitation in responding as a bad sign. The words got stuck in my throat and by the time I finally was able to push the words out "I'm in love with you, too!," I was fairly shouting. This is not at all the romantic scene that I had imagined so many times in my mind.

Startled by what we both had admitted to each other we sat in silence for a few minutes. Finally Kay spoke, "Michelle...are we...I mean...do you think...does this mean we're gay?!" she blurted out, a look of genuine concern on her face. It was as if the thought had just occurred to her. To her dismay I dissolved into fits of laughter. "I think so, Kay" I laughed. Five years later we're still gay and she's still making me laugh.

Michelle Zimmer lives with her partner of five years, Kay, and their three children in Kettering, Ohio. She is working towards her bachelors degree in elementary education and hopes to attain her degree sometime before she is eligible for AARP membership.

Betty, Betty ...

BINGO's BACK!

Parish Bingo was never So Much Fun!

Thursday, Sept. 19, 7pm

Eagle Fire Company

RT 202 • New Hope, PA

$5 Admission

Proceeds to benefit FACT Bucks County

FACT

Drink Discounts at Cartwheel

(with ticket stub)

The Scarab

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Brian (owner)
Keith (manager)

FAB DRAG

Is Back!

Monday, September 9
showtime - 11pm

Mondays:
- Drink Special 10-12
- DJ 10pm-2am

Tuesdays:
- Drink Special 10-12
- Karaoke 10pm-2am

Wednesdays:
- Special Happy Hour
- Coupon Night

Thursdays:
- Drink Special 10-12
- Karaoke 10pm-2am

Fridays & Saturdays:
- Special Happy Hour 8pm - 10pm
- DJ 10pm - 2am
- Patio Open 10pm - 2am

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⑥ Coming Events

***-SPECIAL EVENT L-LIVE VOCAL ST-STRIP SHOW
D-DRAG SHOW F-FUNDRAISER SP-SPORT EVENT

DATE	TYPE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
SEPT 1	L	BONNIE BOLAND	CALL	RAINBOW MT. E. Stroudsburg
1	ST	THE DREAM TEAM MALE REVIEW	11:30PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
2	***	LABOR DAY TEA DANCE & BARBECUE	3PM	CARTWHEEL, New Hope
2	SP	POOL DOUBLE ELIMINATION	8PM	CANDIDA, Allentown
4	MEET	MEETING - PRIDE OF THE L.V.	7PM	Grace Cov. Fellowship, Allentown
4	SP	POOL DOUBLE ELIMINATION	8PM	CANDIDA, Allentown
4	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
6	***	SISTERSPACE WEEKEND (Sept 6,7 &8)	CALL	Canadensis, PA (215)476-8856
6	L	THE WAVES	9:30PM	DIAMONZ, Bethlehem
7	L	RED LETTER DAY	9PM	DIAMONZ, Bethlehem
7	***	SISTERSPACE WEEKEND (Sept 6,7 &8)	CALL	Canadensis, PA (215)476-8856
7	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	CALL	RAINBOW MT., East Strouds.
8	***/F	THE 11th ANNUAL FACT SUMMER GAMES	12PM	RAINBOW MT., E. Stroudsburg
8	***	SISTERSPACE WEEKEND (Sept 6,7 &8)	CALL	Canadensis, PA (215)476-8856
9	D	MONDAY DRAGSEARCH FINALS	CALL	SELECTIONS, Wilkes-Barre
9	D	FAB DRAG	11PM	SCARAB, Reading
11	D	MAXI CARTER	12AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
14	***	BEAR SPLASH '96	CALL	Valinor Farms, Kintnersville, PA
14	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	10PM-2AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
14	L	KATE & CJ	9PM	DIAMONZ, Bethlehem
15	***/F	WYOMING VALLEY AIDSWALK	CALL	INFO - 717-823-5808
18	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
19	***/F	BINGO for FACT Buck's County	7PM	Eagle Fire Co., New Hope
19	***	Sandi Massetti, Internalized Homophobia	7-8:30PM	Unitarian Church of LV, Bethlehem
19	F	BINGO for FACT's Family Support Services	8-11PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
20	L	ELAINE PAXSON	10PM-2AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
20	D	"SIRENS" Monica Rey & Eva the Deva	11:30PM	SELECTIONS, Wilkes-Barre
21	L	DAMZELS	9PM	DIAMONZ, Bethlehem
21	L	LYNN THOMAS	CALL	RAINBOW MT., East Strouds.
22	D	FEMALE ILLUSIONIST BRIAN MURPHY	11PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
24	***/F	GAY & LESBIAN ROLLER SKATING	7:30-10:30P	Skateaway, Whitehall, PA
25	D/F	DUELING DIVAS w/ Tinsel Garland for Quilt	11PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
26	L	TRAP DOOR	10pm&12am	STONEWALL, Allentown
28	***	Reading by Poet Jamie Balliet	8PM	Open Space Gallery, Allentown
28	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	10PM-2AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
29	***/F	LEHIGH VALLEY AIDSWALK	CALL	INFO - 610-974-8701
29	***/D	Miss Gay Pennsylvania America Pageant	9PM	CARTWHEEL, New Hope
OCT 13	***/F	THE FIRST ANNUAL BENEFIT DRAG BALL	7:30pm-2am	STONEWALL, Allentown

Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source info we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide and call the individual organizations for more info and/or confirmation. Phone numbers can be found on page 26.

THE 11th ANNUAL SUMMER GAMES

On Sunday afternoon, September 8, 1996, from 12:00 noon to 7:00 PM. Fighting AIDS Continuously Together (FACT) will hold its 11th annual fund raising event, The Summer Games! This event is the largest fund raising event the organization holds. Last year the event drew more than 900 people and raised nearly $25,000.00.

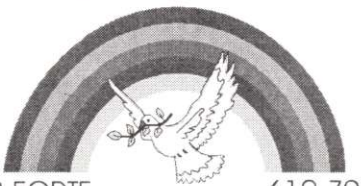
The Summer Games, will be held on the grounds of Rainbow Mountain Resort in the Poconos. Tickets may be purchased in advance for $15.00 or at the gate on the day of the event for $20.00. The ticket price includes a box lunch and several entertainment venues including a cheerleading competition, karaoke sing along, and of course, the competition between several Lehigh Valley and Pocono area businesses! Other activities will include volleyball, bingo, and games of chance. A cash bar will also be available.

Free and confidential HIV testing will also be provided throughout the day for anyone wishing to be tested.

FACT is a nonprofit (501c-3), fund raising organization that raises money to assist individuals and families infected with, or affected by, the HIV/AIDS virus. In the past eleven years that FACT has been in existence, we have raised over 1.2 million dollars in an attempt to alleviate some of the suffering this condition has inflicted upon individuals, children and even whole families. Now more than ever, in this day of decreasing financial resources and government funding, FACT needs your assistance in Fighting AIDS Continuously Together through your support of the 1996 Summer Games!

If you would like to purchase tickets or have questions about the event, please call the FACT office at: (610) 820-5519 or write to FACT at: P.O. Box 1028, Allentown, PA 18105.

Hope Ministries



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--KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
--ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL
--SUNDAY TEA / CARTWHEEL / 4PM

MONDAY
--ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
--DRAG SEARCH / CARTWHEEL / 11PM
--DragSearch Night / SELECTIONS / 11PM

TUESDAY
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM
--KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10pm-2am
--KARAOKE / SELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY
--COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB
--POOL LEAGUE / CANDIDA 8PM
--MALE STRIPPERS / CARTWHEEL / 11:30PM

THURSDAY
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
--KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10PM-2AM
--KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM
--COUNTRY 2-STEP / Cartwheel / 8PM
--COUNTRY WESTERN / SELECTIONS
--POOL LEAGUE / DIAMONZ
--REQUEST DANCE / STONEWALL

FRIDAY
--MICHAEL FERRERI/CARTWHEEL
--Band, Request or Oldies Night / DIAMONZ

SATURDAY
--ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL

Join us for the
F.A.C.T.
11th Annual
SUMMER GAMES
Sunday
September 8
Opening Ceremonies
12:00 noon

MICHAEL FERRERI
Saturday
September 7

KARAOKE
Every Friday
In September!

LYNN THOMAS
Saturday
September 21

Every Sunday PRIME RIB !

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by Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

It's All In Your Head

Some of you may not be fitting in with your usual groups anymore. You may be aware of a growing dissatisfaction which you may not yet have words for. You're not the you that you know you really are. You don't fit as tightly with what's going on around you and that whispering inner voice continues to grab at you.

Perhaps you're one of the many who are experiencing a shifting in your head. The kind that causes you to rethink long held ideas, habits and values. The kind of shifting that allows you to consider a larger picture, a whole truth, a higher consciousness. You may find yourself looking beyond material benefits but not know "what" you're looking for. The material elements of life leave you questioning ... is this all there is to life?

The issue is not one of wanting to relinquish material benefits of nice home, good clothes, vacations, pursuits of health, but rather the recognition that these outer things are not bringing the inner sense of wholeness, completeness, harmony, happiness. And that's the inner whispering that's grabbing you.

Perhaps you are beginning to pick up on an energy that is engulfing more and more people. Maybe you've heard the term "paradigm shift in consciousness" and do not automatically reject it as quacky or the latest fad hype. Perhaps you're actually open to the idea of a psychic reading, auras, nature spirits. Maybe you already use color therapy, aromatherapy, vegetarian nutrition, or wear a crystal. But in your mind ... you've got the pieces, but not quite the whole puzzle.

The paradigm shift in consciousness is what makes one realize that familiar belief systems no longer resolve essential questions about the whys and wherefores of life. Traditional answers are no longer working and people who are shifting are becoming more aware of this fact.

Traditional therapists using traditional therapies are also no longer offering clients the necessary tools for effective coping. The paradigm shift is affecting the field of psychology in a paradoxical manner, and it is the paradox that is the great signaler of the shift. Psychology, whose very unit of study has been the psyche, fought so hard to become a science that it lost not only its own soul but the very soul it came into existence to help! The science of psychology meant that psychology turned away from the psyche to the personality. The personality is equivalent to the material elements of life - important, even necessary, but not enough. But the study of personality logically, analytically, behaviorally, separately allowed it to become science, and science meant respectability, acceptance, entrance into the larger social institutions.

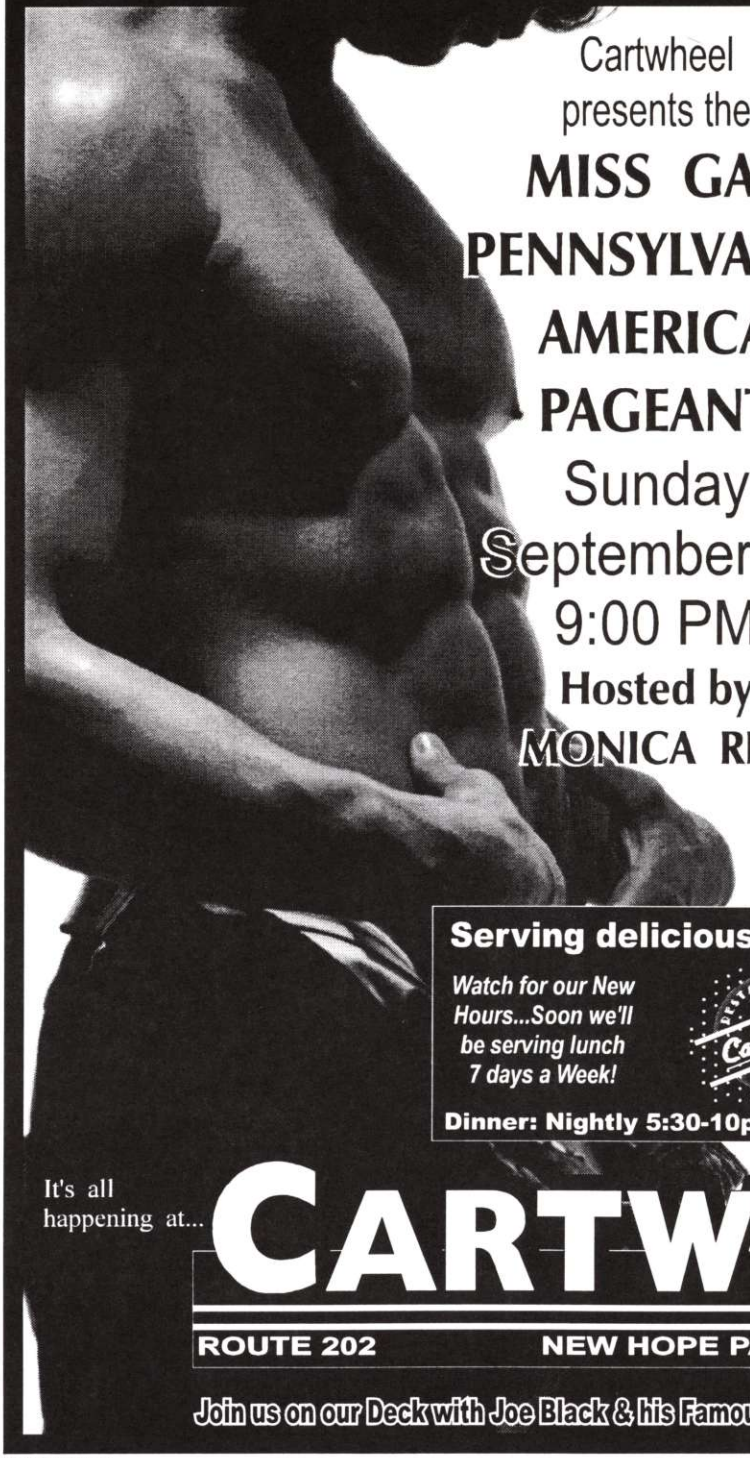
This paradigm shift has already brought about a change in consciousness within the field of psychology. Already there are clinicians practicing this new orientation in spite of skepticism by traditionally oriented practitioners. These transformation oriented therapists know how to hold on to the truth and therefore have already experienced the shift that they are to help others move through. Change agents always face criticism, disdain, and pressure to maintain the status quo. Patriarchal revenge is the classic manifestation of violence to change agents. Whether the status quo is represented by patriarchy or the family of origin (a patriarchal institution) or the peer group, the result is a lack of support for, and an outright attempt to dismiss the change agent. Managed Care read insurance companies (an oxymoron) is patriarchal revenge against a more whole, health oriented, balanced secular/spiritual integration.

Psychology is being invited by this paradigm shift to stress conditions of health not symptoms of disease; to emphasize process, vision, paradox, spirituality, not cause and effect behavior; to replace labels, tests, diagnoses with a focus instead on utilizing concepts of quantum physics, interconnectedness, intuition, divine purpose, mysticism, music, bodywork, etc. Psychology is being challenged to move forward to intuitive and synthesizing therapies and away from ordered analytical ones. Needless to say, many clinicians in the field, as well as researchers in the laboratories and professors in the colleges, are divided on the professionalism and practicality of such a shift. Please remember that only someone who has experienced a shift in consciousness can understand, know, intuit what this shift is all about.

As we move closer to the second millennium, the divergence between the beliefs becomes greater and more threatening to traditional therapies. Clinicians willing to be pulled forward will begin incorporating the new philosophy and will therefore experience the shift personally and professionally.

Thus therapists, the transformers of the future, will not be experts and authorities on how to fix a person, but guides / transformers working in partnership with the client. The transformer therapist, working from a higher perspective, will assist the client in drawing out and honoring their essential self. Humans are paradoxical beings, consciously aware people who exist inside a field of matter called the body. The self is an integration of secular / spiritual, human and nature, left and right, consciousness and physicalness.

It is all in your head ... if you realize that your head is your consciousness and your consciousness is in your head and body ... they're actually the same. what a paradox! Or is it?



Cartwheel
presents the

MISS GAY PENNSYLVANIA AMERICA PAGEANT

Sunday
September 29
9:00 PM
Hosted by
MONICA REY

MONDAYS
Drag Search with Monica Rey
Club opens at 9PM

WEDNESDAYS
Hardbody's Male Review
Club Opens at 9PM

THURSDAYS
Country 2-Steppin' with June Bromley
8-11pm

IN THE PIANO BAR
Fridays:
Michael Ferreri
Saturdays & Sundays:
Elaine Paxson
w/ Christian Daizey

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Photo©David Morgan

IN print

by William Benson

BOOK REVIEW
Queer Spirits: A Gay Men's Myth Book, by Will Roscoe. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995. 346 pages, $24.00

As gay men, we grow up isolated in many ways. We are given messages, both overtly and covertly, that being gay is wrong, bad, evil. In church and in school, we are taught heterosexual values (not good and bad), from which some of us never recover. How can we relate to stories of heterosexual male heroes, or male and female love relationships? It is difficult, frustrating, and ultimately unrewarding.

Queer Spirits is one of the books I've waited for. Here, finally, is a collection of gay men's myths from many different cultures throughout the world. Myths tell the truth, through symbolic language, about our inner, spiritual selves, as well as our relationships to other gay men and women, our families, and society in general. Myths are peopled with demons and angels, villains and heroes. They celebrate and criticize, affirm and question, and through myths, one may be enabled to grow.

Will Roscoe is an anthropologist, perhaps best known for his previous book The Zuni Man-Woman. In Queer Spirits, his range of examples comes from Native American, Greek, Asian, South American, European, South Pacific, and North American cultures. He finds three basic homosexual patterns throughout world history and cultures:

1. a gender-based pattern such as the "third-gender" or "two-spirit" role, individuals outside of "male" or "female" categories, such as the contemporary "queen"
2. an age-based pattern, typically an adult man with a teenage boy, with an emphasis on sex as an initiation into full manhood; and
3. an egalitarian pattern, the ideal of contemporary Western society, based upon equality of the couple as individuals who bond into an inseparable whole, the blurring of "roles" into mutual reciprocation.

There are many fascinating archetypal men and boys found in this collection. We meet Zeus and Ganymede, and Hyacinthus and Apollo from ancient Greece; the mahu from Hawaii; the nadleehe of the Navaho Indians; and the hijra from India. My personal favorite is the "Scrat," a queer trickster who is "unpredictable, undependable, rebellious, impulsive, charmingly and irritatingly adolescent, catalytic, and charismatic." The Scrat, in turn, is similar to the character Enkidu from ancient Babylon, who was the lover and equal of Gilgamesh. Opposites attract because they really are not opposites at all. One of the best manifestations of Scrat/Enkidu lives right here in the Lehigh Valley. Gilgamesh could be writing this book review. This is how myth functions and is relevant to contemporary life.

Will Roscoe's selection of stories, together with his concise and insightful introductions, make for some of the very best reading I've done in a very long time. Among the many issues raised in this book is the question: What are gay people good for? His answer:

"Well, first and foremost, we are good for each other. We heal and restore each other through sex, humor, and devoted friendship. This, in turn, unleashes our power to create. When these creative projects are shared with a partner... our bonds grow even deeper. In fact, there is a clue here to the secret of long-term gay relationships -- the need for shared, creative interests above and beyond sexual attraction, a third thing, forged together, that then calls on the couple to be a couple, even when they might feel otherwise."

There is much to recommend about this book, in both being asked questions as well as finding some possible answers.

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Friday, September 6
9:30 PM

SEPTEMBER ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP

Sat., Sept. 7 - **RED LETTER DAY**

Sat., Sept. 14 - **KATE & CJ**

Sat., Sept. 21 - **DAMZELS**

All Shows 9:00 PM

ANOTHER FIRST At Diamonz

SMOKER DINNERS

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*Value not to exceed $12.95 Not valid with any other offer

DIAMONZ

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To Your Health

by Dr. John Cochran

LESSONS FROM THE GEESE

I was fortunate to take a few days off from my practice in July to go to Hilton head Island in South Carolina. As I lay on the beach watching the "V" shaped formations of pelicans fly over, I was reminded of something I learned years ago about geese.

Lessons From The Geese

1. As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird behind it. By flying in formation the birds can fly 71 percent farther than if they fly alone.

The Lesson: People who share a common sense of purpose can get where they want to go quicker and easier when they are propelled by the thrust of others who share the same goals.

2. Whenever a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the difficulty of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation.

The Lesson: We should stay in formation with those who are headed in the direction we want to go. We can accomplish much more together than by ourselves.

3. When the lead goose gets tired it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

The Lesson: It is only fair that we take turns doing the hard tasks and share leadership responsibilities. Leaders must have followers and followers need leaders.

4. The geese in formation honk from the rear to encourage those up front to keep on course and maintain their speed.

The Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is helpful and encouraging.

5. When a goose gets sick, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They remain with him until he dies or is able to fly again.

The Lesson: It is easy to like those who are like us. However our true character is revealed in our response to those around us who are hurting or suffering misfortune.

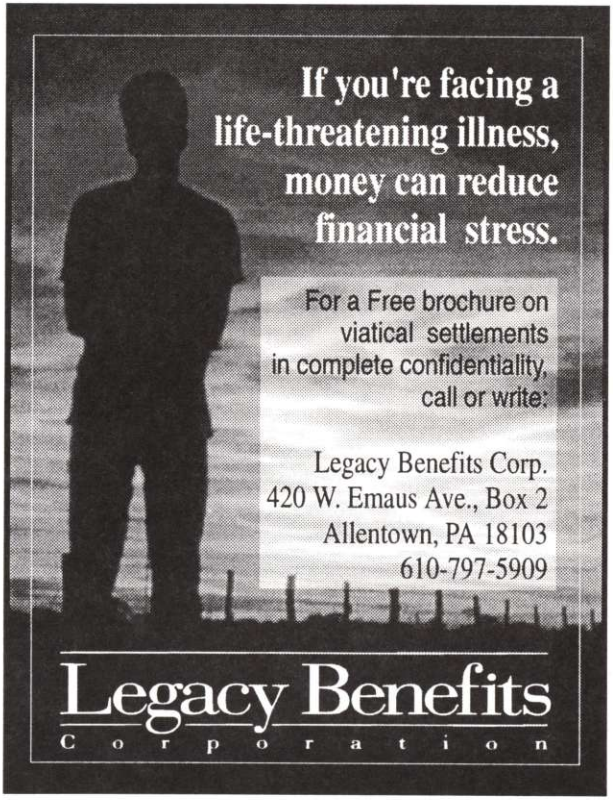
In my practice, I am grateful that God has allowed me to be a facilitator to help others reach a higher level of health and well being. It has driven home the idea that we are all in this together and that we must lift others up along the way. In doing so we raise ourselves up to a higher level of consciousness. Together as a community of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered, we are strong and powerful as exhibited in the recent Pride fest. Alone we are just that, alone. Whether through actions to promote the rights of our community, volunteering to work in an AIDS outreach program, or supporting a church committed to bringing the good news to all of God's people, we are a more visible and recognizable force when we work together. The following story, "Whose Job Is It?", speaks of getting involved.

WHOSE JOB IS IT?

This is a story about four people named everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

It's true anybody could have done the job. But if everybody got involved, just think how much better and faster the job would have gone. As a community we need to work together.

Dr. John Cochran is a practicing Chiropractor with offices at Valley Plaza, 1874 Catasauqua Rd. If you have a medical question you would like addressed, please send it to "To Your Health" c/o AboveGround Magazine, P.O. Box 1656, Allentown, PA 18105-1656.



A Look at Viatical Settlements

Following is a discussion on the subject of viatical settlements which we had with Bob Muth, who is the local viatical agent for Legacy Benefits Corporation, a leading company in the viatical industry. We are publishing the interview to inform and educate our readers on this important subject.

AG: Bob, what is a viatical settlement?
Bob: A viatical settlement is the selling of a life insurance policy by someone with a life-threatening illness for a one-time cash payment.
AG: Why viaticate (sell a policy)?
Bob: Because selling an insurance policy can bring relief from financial stress for a person living with a life-threatening illness. It can help the person get quality medical care, pay off his or her debts, or fulfill the dream of a special vacation. They can use the money in any way they wish.
AG: How is the payoff amount determined?
Bob: By the person's medical history, estimate of life expectancy, the type and amount of life insurance, the current prime interest rate, and future premiums to be paid on the policy.
AG: What happens to the policy when a person viaticates?
Bob: The viatical company continues to pay the premiums as owner and beneficiary of the policy and eventually receives its full face value.
AG: When is the best time to viaticate a policy'?
Bob: There's no magic formula, except to trust the advice from one's doctors, friends, family, and other viators, if possible. If a person viaticates too soon, his percentage may be much lower, and if he does it too late, he may be too sick to enjoy it.
AG: What kind of policies qualify?
Bob: The entire range of life insurance policies, including whole life, universal, term and group policies, can be viaticated. The policy must be in force for two years and assignable.
AG: What if the policy has a cash value?
Bob: If the policy includes accumulated cash value in the death benefit, or if it can be used to pay future premiums, the person should make sure the viatical settlement company will increase its offer, or do not deal with that company.
AG: Can a person sell a portion of a policy'?
Bob: Yes, one could sell whatever amount was needed, say, to cover their expenses for the next year, leaving the balance for later use or to leave to a beneficiary. A good viatical company can tailor a package to meet the needs of its clients.
AG: Are there any caveats?
Bob: Yes, there are. It's important to deal with a respected, established company, one that is fully capitalized and will put the offered amount in an escrow account when the person accepts the offer and turn it over to the client as soon as the paperwork is complete. Plus give the client up to 15 days to change his mind. That's the only kind of company to deal with.
(Editor's Note: For any further information, Bob Muth can be contacted at 610-797-5909.)

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PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

What Was The Alpine County Project?

In October 1970, the Los Angeles Times ran a story about a plan by the local Gay Liberation Front (GLF) to establish a gay colony in Alpine County, California. The ensuing brouhaha - which spread to the national media and caused an uproar in the tiny, snow-bound county itself - is a fascinating episode that illustrates the utopianism, the folly, and the media savvy of the early gay liberationists.

The plan originated with underground newspaper reporter Don Jackson, who urged gays to move en masse to California's least populous county, register to vote, and elect an all-gay government which could then use tax dollars to create a gay civil service, community college, museum, hospital, and other public facilities and services.

Jackson's plan was dismissed by many as a quixotic fantasy. But the demographic and legal hurdles to actually setting up a "gay county" were relatively small. The 450-population Alpine County (nestled in the Sierra Nevadas 10 miles south of Lake Tahoe) had only 367 registered voters, and new residents could register to vote after only 90 days. It seemed to some that the plan required only a few hundred gays and lesbians willing to make a three-month experiment.

Meanwhile, many members of the Los Angeles GLF were frustrated by the lack of media attention to their movement. So a group of them decided to use the Alpine County idea as political theater, in hopes of gaining the attention of the Los Angeles Times and other mainstream news outlets. They called a news conference to announce that hundreds of gays and lesbians were already preparing to move to Alpine County. Only the medical reporter from the Times covered the conference, but his article quickly gained national attention, with stories soon appearing in the Wall Street Journal and Time, as well as on every network news broadcast.

The GLF members continued the hoax, even sending a scouting party up to Alpine County during Thanksgiving 1970 to make "preparations" for the gay colony. Some GLF supporters - men and women - who read about the plan in the papers or saw it on the news took it seriously and even started planning to move. One lesbian couple from Long Beach told The Advocate they were planning to open a "little country store" in Alpine County.

When the long-time residents of Alpine County heard about the plan, however, they were not amused. The chairman of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors noted the cold climate of the region and said that "no fruit is very welcome up in our particular county." The county began to explore the option of merging with the more populous neighboring El Dorado County.

In any event, by February 1971, the plan had lost steam. The GLF issued a statement that they were abandoning Alpine County for a "more temperate county" with better soil and rivers. The media attention had died down, although the GLF had achieved its goal of being taken seriously by the press as a political force, not a medical issue.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. His first book, Modern Jewish History for Everyone, will be published this month by History for Everyone. He can be reached care of this newspaper or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

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FIFTH YEAR FOR LEHIGH VALLEY LESBIANS

Sandi Massetti starts out the fifth year of programs for Lehigh Valley Lesbians with a talk September 19 on Internalized Homophobia. She will help those attending consider ways they hold themselves back by accepting and acting consistently with stereotypes. She will also look at ways that each of us can overcome these self imposed restraints.

The meetings are held at the Unitarian Church of the Lehigh Valley, which is at the corner of Wall St. and Center St. in Bethlehem. This year meetings return to the third Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 P.M. For information call 253-5454, or just come to a meeting. A donation of $2 is asked to help defray costs.

Next in the Fall lineup will be Liz Bradbury speaking on October 17 about Hawaiian Marriages. She will share an update on the court case which may legalize same sex marriages and whether other states will have to recognize them. There will also be discussion of how this will impact our community.

Noreen Zavorsky, who is certified as an OT and a hand therapist, will discuss Acupuncture on Nov 21. She will show how it is an alternative approach to medicine with a long history of success. She recently completed a Diploma in Acupuncture.

The annual Holiday Party and Game Night will be held on December 19. Everyone is invited to come with their favorite games and holiday foods to share.

Spring 1997 programs are being planned, but only one is finalized at this time. Rose Snyder, who is certified in Reflexology, will be talking about that approach to health on May 20. Other Spring dates include January 21, February 20, March 20, April 17, and May 22.

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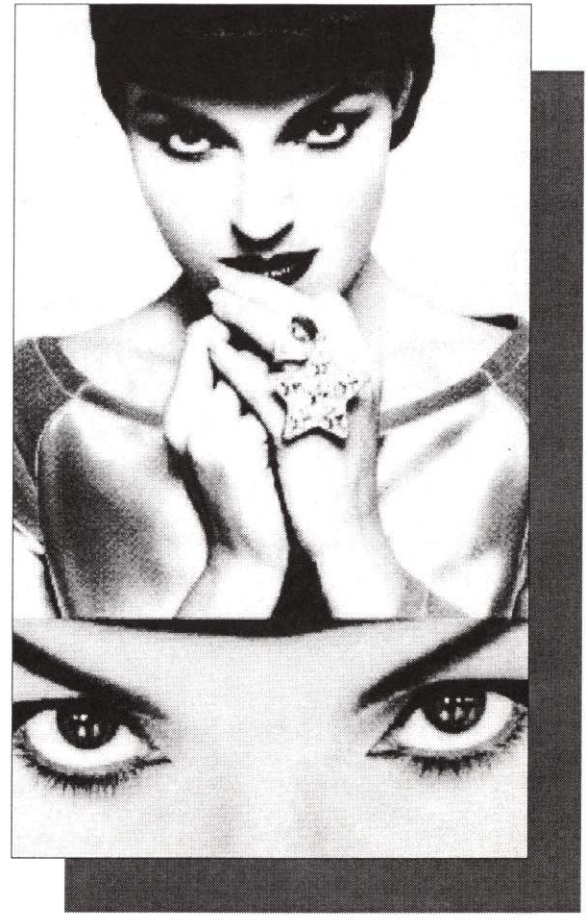
Music Review

by
C.Robert Frank



I'm not going to go on about how long we've waited for Kristine W's debut album. The only way you wouldn't know "Feel What You Want" came out in the Spring of 1994 is if you're under 23 years old. I'm just thankful we've remained alive to hear Land of the living.

So, what makes all the hype worth the wait? Kristine's magical voice, for starters. She's like a bluesy torch singer with driving beats. Even songs that have fall-flat potential are saved. "love Song" has that all too familiar "Paid In Full" drum loop running from end to end. Kristine's voice ties that loop into a knot, making for one of the album's most touching songs.

Or was it worth the wait for the poignant poetry? These songs will not only make you dance, they'll make you weep. Some of the lyrics will jump out of you speakers and smack you in the face! Catch all the words in "Feel What You Want" or "I Don't Wanna Think," they'll make you do more than just think. How do you respond to line like: "...I see him on the streets, he's asking for a change and he looks my age ...?" And more paradoxical, why are we exuberating dancing to them? Other lyrics take a few listens to feel their full impact. "Let Me In" seems like a cute, harmless little dance song, but after a few listens try to figure out why Kristine can't get in.

Whatever the reason, Land of the living has set a new standard for dance albums. Kristine W deserves every praise the press and fans have given her. This is, without question, the best dance album of 1996, and as was mentioned last month: It will blow you away!!

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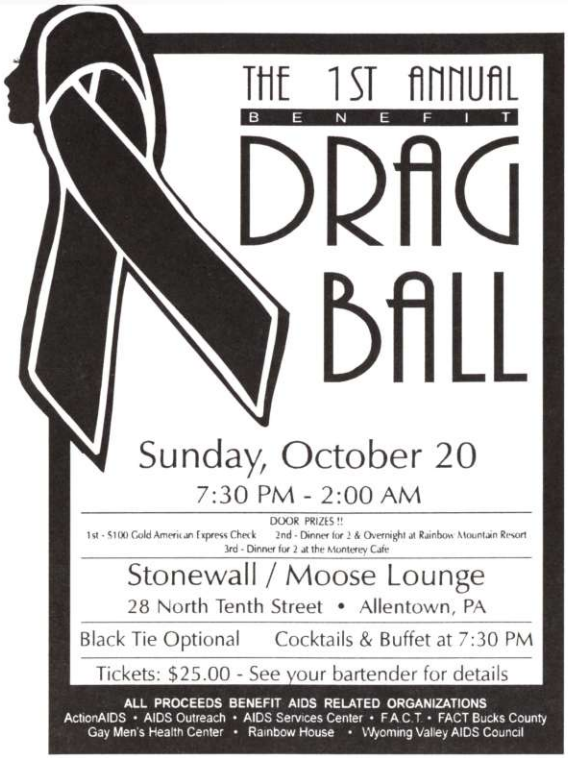

DJ's TOP TEN

DJ : Vince
Club: THE BUZZ / Scranton

1. **In De Ghetto '96**
   BAD YARD CLUB
   featuring CRYSTAL WATERS
2. **Wrong**
   EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL
3. **Movin' On**
   CE CE PENISTON
4. **Xanadu**
   OLIVIA featuring PAULA
5. **Stand Up**
   LOVE TRIBE
6. **Ole Ole**
   OUT HERE BROTHERS
7. **Pump It**
   CEVIN FISHER
8. **Do That To Me**
   LISA MARIE EXPERIENCE
9. **I Wanna Dance With Somebody Who Loves Me '96**
   WHITNEY HOUSTON
10. **I Am What I Am '96**
    ? IMPORT PROMO

DJ : Michael DeCero
Club: CARTWHEEL / New Hope

1. **Stand Up**
   LOVETRIBE
2. **If Madonna Calls**
   JUNIOR VASQUEZ
3. **I Is What I Am**
   MOVEMENT UNDERGROUND
4. **Won't Give Up My Music**
   PULSE
5. **Killing Me Softly**
   ROBERTA FLACK
6. **I Wanna Dance**
   WHITNEY HOUSTON
7. **Stupid Girl**
   GARBAGE
8. **Supernature '96**
   CERRONE
9. **Where Love Lives '96**
   ALISON LIMERICK
10. **Give Me Strength**
    JON OF THE PLEASED WIMMIN

VIDEO

VJ : Michael Leidy
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. **Can' Help It**
   HAPPY CLAPPERS
2. **Let's Talk about It (Big Red mix)**
   SEIKO
3. **Keep On Jumpin**
   TODD TERRY
4. **One More Try**
   KRISTINE W
5. **What Goes around**
   BOB MARLEY
6. **Wrong**
   EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL
7. **There's Nothing I Won't Do**
   JX
8. **Astroplane**
   MARY KIANA
9. **Before**
   PET SHOP BOYS
10. **One By One**
    CHER

DJ : Tina
Club: DIAMONZ / Bethlehem

1. **Come On Ride It**
   QUAD CITY DJ's
2. **Reach**
   GLORIA ESTEFAN
3. **Am I A Dreamer**
   LIVIN' JOY
4. **Keep On Jumpin'**
   MARTHA WASH
5. **You Keep Me Hangin On**
   REBA MACENTIRE
6. **America**
   FULL INTENTION
7. **One Of Us**
   OUTTA CONTROL
8. **Your Makin' Me High**
   TONI BRAXTON
9. **In De Ghetto**
   BAD YARD CLUB
10. **Wrong**
    EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL

DJ : Casey
Club: SCARAB / Reading

1. **Macarena**
   LOS DEL RIO
2. **You're Makin' Me High**
   TONI BRAXTON
3. **C'mon & Ride It**
   QUAD CITY DJ's
4. **On By One**
   CHER
5. **Professional Widow**
   TORI AMOS
6. **If Madonna Calls**
   JUNIOR VASQUEZ
7. **This Is Your Night**
   AMBER
8. **In De Ghetto '96**
   BAD YARD CLUB
9. **Jellyhead**
   CRUSH
10. **Keep Jumpin'**
    MARTHA WASH
    JOCELYN BROWN

DJ : Chris Frank
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. **Storm In My Soul**
   KARMASUTRA
2. **I Don't Wanna Think**
   KRISTINE W
3. **Heaven**
   SARAH WASHINGTON
4. **Two To Tango**
   VANESSA DAOU
5. **Bad Man**
   SISTER BLISS
6. **Gotta Keep Pushin'**
   Z FACTOR
7. **Someone**
   O'HARA
8. **Who Is He And What Is He To You**
   ME'SHELL NDEGÉOCELLO
9. **You Got To Pray**
   JOI CARDWELL
10. **Won't Give Up My Music**
    PULSE

Liz OUT Loud

Oh who are the people in your neighborhood, in your neighborhood, in your neighborhood, ...the people that you meet each day.

by Liz Bradbury

What would happen to you if everyone you knew, not just your friends, but everyone in your world knew you were gay? Take a moment to imagine. O.K. time's up, stop imagining, I'll tell you what it's like, because it happened to me last month.

If you looked at the front page of the Morning Call local section on Sunday August 11th, you saw a big color picture of me and my partner Trish standing in our backyard garden. In big print were the words "City homes attractive to gay buyers" ..... and if you didn't read the article written by Bob Whitman you should have. It mentioned the League of Gay and Lesbian Voter's, it mentioned this magazine, it interviewed several gay and lesbian homeowners in center city Allentown, and it made a lot of people aware of the gay and lesbian presence in this area. The article was about the many gay men and lesbians buying and restoring homes in center city Allentown.

But right now I'm writing about what happened to me and Trish after this article and picture came out. Friends asked us if we were worried about any kind of negative reaction. One friend even told us point blank, "You shouldn't have done it, what if someone throws a rock through your window?!"

Sure, we thought about it, but we figured hey, we can't live our lives avoiding things for fear that maybe something bad might happen. Trish and I are self-employed, so we can't be fired. We are out to all the people in our families, so we figure, if we don't take the risk to speak out...how can we expect others to do so.

It would be a lie to say nothing happened and that it was no big deal, in fact many things happened, and so far... they were all great!

First of all, if you think no one reads the Morning Call you're wrong, and that this was the part of the paper which had the directory for Musicfest even increased it's regular circulation. People we barely know from Pen Argle to Kunklesville to Quakertown saw it. Everybody seemed to have seen it.

The elderly lady who lives behind us called to say what a lovely picture it was and that she had clipped it out so we could have an extra copy if we wanted. The next door neighbor hailed us pleasantly with, "Did you know your picture's in the paper, when I saw it I said hey, those are my neighbors!" We called our Lawyer's office on business and the secretary said, I saw your picture, I think it's great people are buying these old buildings!" I went to an auction in Schnecksville and 14 people, most over the age of fifty, congratulated us on the attractiveness of our garden and one person told me her husband was on the board of F.A.C.T. When we went to the movies at the 19th street theater the ticket taker said she had seen the picture. The vegetable vendor at the farmer's market told Trish she was a celebrity and that was all in the first 3 days!

We figured people who saw the picture at least read the headline so they all knew we were lesbians. When they said, "the garden looks nice", we felt the unspoken second line was "and I don't mind if you're gay." After all they didn't have to say anything at all. Now maybe these people will be less likely to believe anti-gay rhetoric because they actually know people who are gay and we aren't really monsters at all. (And Trish says all of the, "are they sisters?" and "are they mother and daughter?" wondering is now finally cleared up.)

Do you think of Allentown as a really conservative town? Well, it isn't. We just had a Pride festival run by Pride of the Lehigh Valley and 3416 people were there. It was opened by a City Councilman who wasn't even running for office. The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters is one of the biggest and strongest League Chapters in the state and there are at least 700 registered Allentown gay and lesbian voters on it's mailing list. Diamonz was in the St Patrick's Day Parade. In the last 3 months there have been 15 pro-gay major articles and letters in the Morning Call and only one crackpot anti-gay (and anti-everyone else) letter.

Drive around Allentown and you see rainbow flags proudly displayed, rainbow stickers on cars and people in pink triangle tee-shirts. The bars are strong, out and supportive. The ISO section of the Morning Call had 19 lesbian and 29 gay men ads this week. The Task Force, Lehigh Valley Lesbians, Velvet Spikers, Gay Men's Chorus, Metropolitan Community Church, GLORA, Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, Grace Covenant Church, just to name a few, are all going strong. Five of the local colleges have gay organizations. Within the last year or so, Margarethe Cammemeyer, Susan Westenhoffer, Lea Delaria, Cris Williamson, Tret Fury, Lynn Lavner, Rev. Janie Spahr, ... and others I've missed, have appeared here. On the internet Gay Community Bulletin Board there is a section just for the Lehigh Valley. We have monthly gay and lesbian roller skating run by the Voter's League. There are over 35 listings in the Gay Yellow Pages under-Lehigh Valley, PA. We have this great 'zine too!

Compare this to other small cities with about the same population. Yeah it's not Key West or P-town, but try finding a rainbow flag in say St. Augustine, Florida or Springfield, Mass.

Of course we can't just rest on our laurels, Allentown

still has it's conservative embarrassments. Emma Tropiano, the Allentown City Councilwoman who actually went on prime time TV to tell the world Allentown is a bad place because we have diversity, comes to mind. But when an article came out in the local paper that pictured two dykes in their city garden, their apprehension about being so out was soon washed away by the smiles and congratulations of neighbors, acquaintances and strangers who only had good things to say. If you still think it's a conservative town, then get out and work on it. There's more to gain than to lose.

Liz Bradbury reminds everyone to register to vote now because you must be registered by the first week of October in order to be able to vote in November in what may be the most important election of our lives.

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NOTES ON THE MOVEMENT
By Steve Black

LEAGUE OF GAY AND LESBIAN VOTERS SETS STRATEGY

At its August 4 state board meeting the Pennsylvania League of Gay and Lesbian Voters set a strategy for opposing the anti same sex marriage legislation pending in Harrisburg. The state house of representatives added the anti same sex marriage amendment to a popular bill allowing grandparents to seek custody of their grandchildren. That bill has returned to the state senate where it is sitting in the Rules Committee awaiting action when the Senate returns from its summer recess.

The LGLV Board and representatives from the Eastern Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania Freedom to Marry Coalitions agreed to take the following actions:

1. Organize an aggressive post card campaign, concentrating on the areas of the state outside of Philadelphia.
2. Coordinate constituent meetings with State Senators on the issue. The meeting would involve a gay or lesbian couple and a supportive clergy person all of whom live in the Senator's district.
3. Use the issue to generate positive media coverage. The key to eventually winning marriage rights is to change public opinion of same sex marriage. LGLV and the Freedom to Marry Coalition will seek to have local newspapers write feature stories on gay and lesbian couples living in their coverage areas.

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4. LGLV and the Freedom to Marry Coalition may possibly participate in a rally in the State Capitol at the end of September. The plan for the rally is not definite. It is being organized by a group of individuals from York County. LGLV and the Freedom to Marry Coalition are not sure whether having a rally will have the result of gaining or losing support for the issue. But if the rally does come off, the groups believe that a poor turnout would definitely hurt us. So if a rally is planned, LGLV will work to publicize it and encourage people to attend.

LGLV FORMS NEW CHAPTERS

The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters increased the number of its local chapters from ten to twelve. Two chapters covering the suburban Philadelphia counties of Chester, Delaware and Montgomery have recently formed. LGLV now has chapters across Pennsylvania including: Chester / Delaware Counties, Clearfield County, Erie, Harrisburg / York, Johnstown, Lehigh Valley, Montgomery County, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, State College, and Washington County.

LGLV has plans to form three additional chapters in Berks / Schuylkill Counties, Bucks County and Lancaster County. For more information on getting involved in any of the Chapters call (215) 735- 0852.

NO PUBLIC GAY BASHING AT REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

Unlike four years ago when Pat Buchanan declared a cultural and religious war on gays, lesbians, abortion rights advocates and the Clintons, the 1996 Convention had no public attacks on gay men and lesbians. Many Republicans blamed Bush's defeat in 1992 in part on Buchanan attacks, making the party seem intolerant. To repair their image the party staged a well scripted convention which included no speech by Buchanan while other speakers concentrated on economic issues and attacks on Clinton's record.

Eventhough the party did an effective job of not appearing intolerant from the speakers podium, Republicans and Bob Dole cannot hide from their anti-gay platform which was adopted unanimously by the delegates. The platform includes the following provisions:

1. The platform opposes to civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

2. The platform declares "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

3. The platform opposes same-sex marriage and supports the Defense of Marriage Act.

KEMP HAS ANTI-GAY RECORD

Just before the Republican Convention in San Diego, Bob Dole announced that Jack Kemp would be his choice for Vice President. Many see Dole's choice as an important issue in the election because of Bob Dole's age. Dole is 73 and would be the oldest man elected to a first term. While he was a Congressman representing Buffalo, New York Jack Kemp had a consistently anti-gay voting record. His votes included:

- Voting for anti – gay amendments which prohibited the federal Legal Services Corporation from pursuing gay discrimination cases.
- Voted to kill the District of Columbia's repeal of its sodomy law.
- Voted to allow religious educational institutions to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.
- Voted to allow insurance companies to discriminate against people with AIDS.
- Voted against establishing the National AIDS Commission.
- Voted three times to require mandatory reporting of partners with HIV.
- Voted for mandatory reporting of people with HIV.

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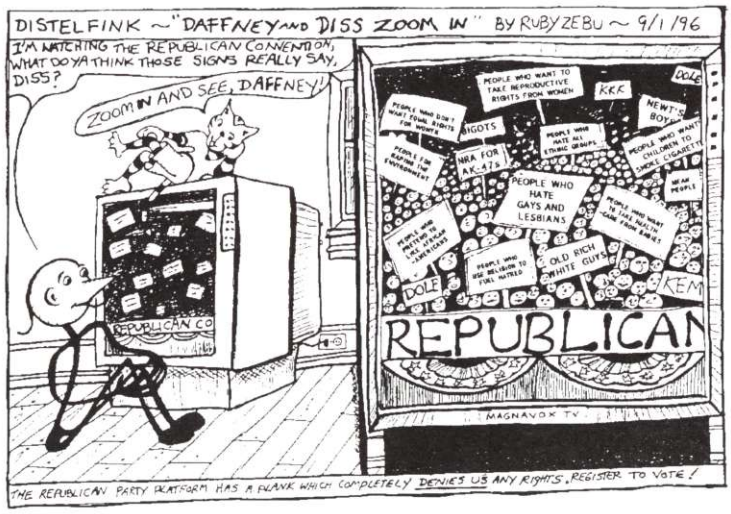

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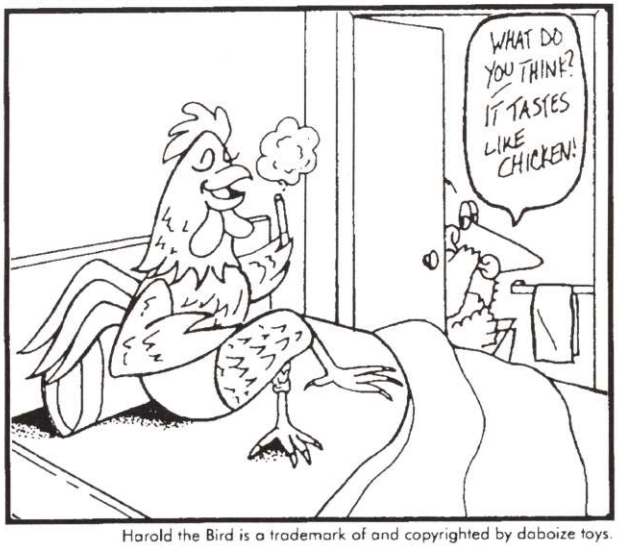

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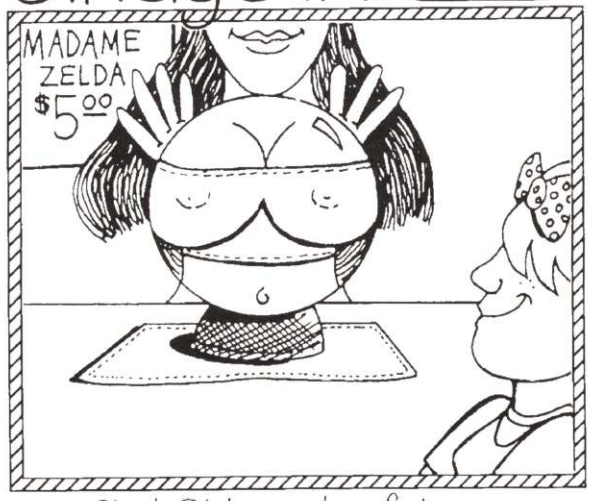

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LEAGUE OF GAY AND LESBIAN VOTERS

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QUEER Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

There was a minor fanfare in the gay press, back in 1977, when ecologists George Hunt and Molly Warner, of the University of California, Irvine, announced their discovery of "lesbian" seagulls. The Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California were thick with them, they reported: about ten percent (that famous fraction!) of the pairs in the breeding colonies consisted of two females: the birds had sex together, set up nest together, and raised their young together, just like the male-female pairs. (For the eggs to be fertile, the lesbian gulls also had to copulate with males from neighboring nests.)

It's hard to tell male and female gulls apart by their appearance, but it was easy to spot the lesbian pairs, because with two egg-layers in the family, their nests contained more eggs - up to six, compared with three for a heterosexual pair.

During the late seventies, the gay movement was defending itself against attacks from so-called Christians like Anita Bryant. Homosexuality was "against nature," Bryant claimed. But here was blatant same-sex eroticism among creatures who were still in a "state of nature." Lesbians and gay men gloated: one cartoon in a gay paper showed Anita Bryant shaking one hand angrily at a flock of gulls overhead, while wiping something out of her eye with the other.

This May, Hunt led a group of gays and lesbians, including myself, on a tour of Anacapa Island, an hour's boat ride from Oxnard harbor, north of Los Angeles. After disembarking and clambering up the steep cliff to the island's flat summit, we gathered together for an open-air lecture. Some Boy Scouts who were camping on the island listened in, but they started snickering when Hunt got to the lesbian part.

After the lecture, we roamed around the island, eagerly checking out the hundreds of gulls' nests tucked in amongst the ice-plant. But it was three eggs . . . three eggs . . . three eggs . . . and so it went all afternoon. We couldn't find a nest with even four eggs - let alone five or six. (The scenery was beautiful, though.)

So what happened to the lesbian birds? Well, this is the embarrassing part. It turns out that the rampant lesbianism among the seagulls of the 1970s wasn't quite so "natural" after all. In fact, it had a lot to do with the millions of pounds of pesticides, including DDT, that the Montrose Chemical Company had been dumping into the Los Angeles sewer system, and hence into the ocean. According to Michael Fry and Cyndi Toone of U.C. Davis, the DDT severely weakened the male gulls, so that many of them were unable to fly to the islands to breed. This left an excess of females, who then paired with each other. After DDT was banned, the levels in the marine environment gradually declined, and the sex ratio among the gulls in the breeding colonies reverted to 50:50. By the end of the 1980s, heterosexual pairing had become the rule again.

The way Hunt and other ecologists look at it, female-female pairing is a natural response of seagulls (and some other birds) to an imbalance in the sex ratio. Such imbalances can occur naturally: for example, newly-founded breeding colonies often have an excess of females, because the females are more adventurous, while the males like to breed wherever they bred the previous year. And in these circumstances female-female pairing makes good sense: two female gulls are just as capable of raising young as a male-female couple, aside from the insemination part. But the marked skewing of the sex ratio in the Channel Islands during the 1970s, and the resulting high frequency of lesbian pairs, had more to do with human wrong-doing that with "nature."

There's a moral in here somewhere, which is that there's no moral to be drawn from what animals do or don't do. We can find animals that are peaceable and altruistic, and others that kill their own siblings. We can find animals that enter into lifelong monogamous relationships, and others that are promiscuous, incestuous, or polymorphously perverse. None of that has much to say about what is appropriate or natural behavior for human beings. (Having said which, I won't be able to resist writing about the gay sheep of Idaho in a future column.)

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of Queer Science (MIT Press, 1996) and the co-author (with Elisabeth Nonas) of City of Friends. He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com.

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Straight Spouce Support

A support group is forming for current and former straight spouses of gays and lesbians, in association with the Philadelphia Chapter of Parents, Families R Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P – FLAG). The first meeting will be held on Sunday, September 28, 1996 at 2 p.m., 2111 Sansom Street, Philadelphia. If there is enough local interest, a satellite group will be formed in the Lehigh Valley area. If you need further information or a ride to Philadelphia, please call Laurie Fehr at (610) 439 – Z253. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!

DID YOU KNOW:

- Between 2 and 4 million Americans are or were married to gay, lesbian, or bisexual partners, usually unknowingly.
- 20-35% of lesbians and gay men marry.
- 95% of married gay men were aware of same-sex feelings before marriage; 90% had acted on those feelings.
- When a husband comes out, 15% of couples remain married.

– Adapted from the Newsletter of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International, Spring

Horrorscoops by Evil Esther

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb.18

Fresh start in the relationship department begins this month. Know that you are doing the right thing. It will all turn out for the best in the end. Keep an open mind and be patient. End of the month will be hectic, but it is worth it.

PISCES
Feb.19-March 20

Pest control...time to get rid of that unwanted person in your life. Kind words won't do. You have to be firm and make your displeasure known, or the current cycle will continue indefinitely, and you will never know peace.

ARIES
March 21-April 19

Shop for bargains this month, that money you save will help you towards the end of the month with an unexpected car bill. Don't lose your cool when it happens. It isn't as bad as you might think. Leo will lend support.

TAURUS
April 20-May 20

Refreshed from your recent journey, you are ready to take on the world! Take it as it comes, it is okay to try new things in business this month, but be sure it is a sound choice. Keeping the final goal in sight is the key to success.

GEMINI
May 21-June 20

Looks like you're out of the woods this month in the romance department. Just keep making those changes and things will turn for the better by the end of the month. There is still something there, fan the ember and see if the fire ignites again. Just be ready to fuel the flame.

CANCER
June 21-July 22

Congratulations are in order! You have begun the road to your career. Looks good on paper, is better in the flesh! New friends and faces will take you places you could only dream about before. Test was the beginning of the rest of your life!

LEO
July 23-Aug.22

Recent separation was brought on by your own stalling. Loss of friendship was the price you paid for gambling. You still have another choice to make, may you chose the one that is right for you. One thing for sure, dust won't settle on your bags.

VIRGO
Aug.23-Sept.22

Don't push it! Take the slow boat and you will see more scenery. It is a good thing that has happened, don't blow it by rushing into things. You still have his heart, but his mind needs to wander a little. It isn't anything that you lack, so don't try to make up for it.

LIBRA
Sept.23-Oct.22

When in doubt, improvise. You will need your funny wit to get you out of a jam this month. It is your best weapon. Keep a sharp eye out for someone who is looking to burst your bubble. Avoid the mall, there are better places to pick up men!

SCORPIO
Oct.23-Nov.21

Romance intensifies around middle of the month. Sex is good, but love is better. Keep the two separated and you will emerge unscathed. Heart is looking one way, head is looking the other. Follow your heart, it is the better deal.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21

Not much new for you this month, but don't despair! You are in holding pattern, and it is not a bad thing. Keep smiling and make sure you take time for yourself. Do something nice for a neighbor and make the time for family.

CAPRICORN
Dec.22-Jan.19

Lots to do this month keeps you from "rusting". Opportunities will present themselves after the 6th. Artistic wings get a real stretch this month, be sure to take time out for sleep and fun. Domestic situation will improve, unexpected money is found!

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247 N. 12th St.
610-434-3071

Stonewall & Moose Lounge
28 N. 10th St.
610-432-0215

BETHLEHEM
Diamonz
1913 W. Broad St.
610-865-1028

EAST STROUDSBURG
Rainbow Mountain
RD 8 Box 8174
717-223-8484

HARRISBURG
B-TLS
891 Eisenhower Blvd.
717-939-1123

Neptune Lounge
268 North St.
717-233-3078

Stallions
706 N. 3rd St.
717-232-3060

NEW HOPE
Cartwheel
Route 202
215-862-0880

Raven
385 W, Bridge St.
215-862-2081

READING
Scarab
724 Franklin St.
610-375-7878

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Scranton, PA
717-969-6399

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133 N. Washington Ave.
Scranton, PA
717-969-0900

Selections
45 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA
717-829-4444

AIDS Related Organizations

AIDS Outreach
112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center
60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

Allentown Health Bureau -HIV testing
245 N. 6th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
(contact David Moyer)
610-437-7742

FACT
P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105
610-820-5519

FACT Bucks County
P.O. Box 616
Buckingham, PA 18912

Latino AIDS Outreach
610-861-6845

Wyoming Valley AIDS Council
P.O. Box 2677
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
717-823-5808

We Care
P.O. Box 1013
Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18703
717-824-1007
717-779-5155

Religious Affiliations

Grace Covenant Fellowship
247 N. 10th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-740-0247

Hope Ministries
Rev. Bob J. Forté
610-791-0716
24 hrs.-leave message.

Integrity
610-395-1785
610-758-8642

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
Uniterian Universalist Church
424 Center St.
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

Phoenix Ministries, ULC Inc.
Rev. Joél S. Diehl, DD,MsD.
610-433-5325 leave message

Zen Buddhist Sangha
Ongoing meditation meetings
610-559-8136
leave message

Community/Social/Support Organizations

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 417
Reading, PA 19603-0417
610-373-0674

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

GLORA
Gays & Lesbians Of Reading & Allentown
P.O. Box 1952
Allentown, PA 18105

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters
Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-0781
610-432-5449

Community/Social/Support Organizations (cont.)

Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force
P.O. Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-868-3388

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus
P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-821-0578

Lehigh Valley Lesbians
Bethlehem, PA
610-253-5454

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Front & Windsor Sts., Reading

North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.
P.O. Box 3624
Allentown, PA 18106
E-mail: GendrFrend@aol.com
610-821-2955

P-Flag
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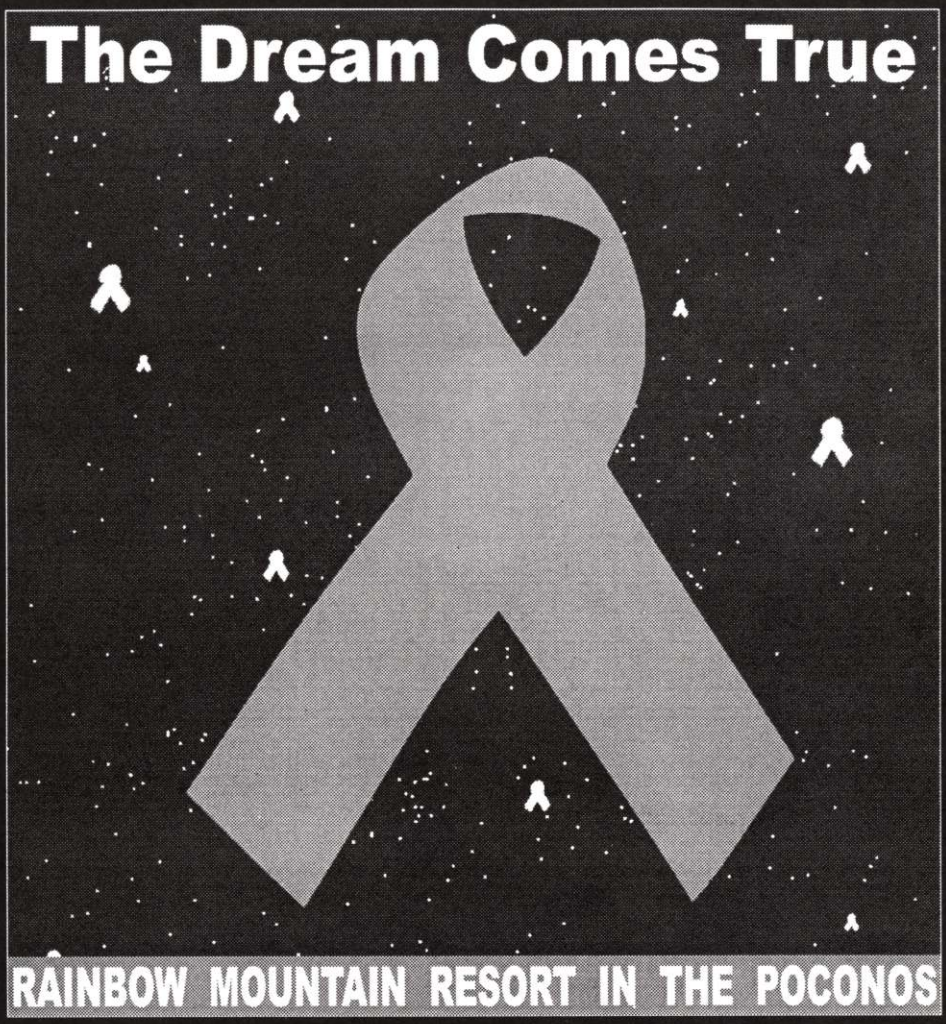

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